



RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Municipal Police Training Academy

Community College of Rhode Island — Flanagan Campus

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Colonel James M. Manni
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Lieutenant Christopher J. Zarrella
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Municipal Police Training Academy

Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training

Meeting Minutes

RIMPTA Academy Classroom, CCRI, Lincoln

February 25, 2021

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Chief Mello called to order the regular meeting of the Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training (POST) at 10:15 a.m. on **February 25, 2021**.

Chief Mello took a roll call. The following POST members were present at the meeting: Chief Mello, Colonel Michael Winkvist, and Mr. Shawn Brown. Absent is Maria Deaton and Colonel Hugh Clements. Also present were Corporal Kristopher Lagor, David Ricciarelli, Donna Lavalley; Paul Dutra, Ryan Holt; Adam Sholes.

2. Discussion/Approval of minutes:

Chief Mello asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the POST meeting of November 19, 2020. Mr. Brown made a motion to accept the minutes; Colonel Winkvist seconded the motion. With all in favor, 3-0, motion carries.

3. Surrender of Firearms Policy

Chief Mello stated that the POST is tasked to developing a policy about how firearms are surrendered, destroyed, etc. The POST never took on the responsibility and has no policy regarding this. It is pending litigation at this time. Paul Dutra added that the Cranston PD now has the Caniglia case and it has been successful to this point in directed police officers to seize firearms. Attorney Mark DeSisto is representing Cranston and the case goes to the crux under what circumstances do police officers seize these firearms. It is scheduled for oral arguments and a decision is expected in June. Chief Mello added that there are a handful of existing laws regarding the seizure of firearms and the police officers face a conundrum-do they have the right, what's the process for returning firearms, etc. Police officers expose themselves by taking firearms. Chief Mello suggests tabling until the final disposition in Cranston. Mr. Brown made a motion to continue this item until September; Colonel Winkvist seconded the motion. With all in favor, 3-0, motion carries.

4. Final Resolution regarding the inactive status of officers leaving their sponsoring department

Chief Mello stated there is a challenge attached to fill the gap where police officers leave an agency under unfavorable circumstances. He asked Ryan Holt to modify the existing "three-year rule" policy.

The goal is to try to achieve a policy that the moment a police officer leaves his/her original sponsoring agency, that certification becomes inactive. In order for the new agency to employ that officer, they must make application to the POST. The POST would then review the application. The second point is for an individual who retires and goes out of state. The POST would issue a certificate of good standing. Ryan stated that this has never been legally tested. This is a way to achieve this and gives the POST the flexibility. Adam Sholes asked how this would affect reserve officers. Chief Mello answered that there was a ruling of the POST and at that time, the POST took the position that reserve officers certification does not give them arrest powers. Therefore, he doesn't feel that this would be a challenge as we don't recognize that certification. Colonel Winkvist asked about retired officers doing details. Chief Mello answered that if they are still employed by the same agency it wouldn't apply. If not, they should apply here. Dave Ricciarelli asked if there was a discussion of what good standing is and Chief Mello answered it is judged upon the information provided. Ryan added it would be based upon the information that is relevant. Colonel Winkvist asked if this would be retroactive and Chief Mello stated it would be effective when the policy is adopted. Adam stated the chain of command would be Captain Borek to Major Barry to Colonel Manni. Paul Dutra made a suggestion that when the notice is sent out to all departments regarding the amended policy change, a quick "Frequently Asked Question" sheet should be attached as he envisions a ton of questions going forth. Chief Mello thanked Ryan for the work he has done on this and he proposed a revised one which is expanded a bit more. Once this is adopted, a recording-keeping protocol in the Academy office should be in place. He also asked Ryan what the recourse would be if someone challenged this and he answered stated they would file a suit. Chief Mello asked if the policy should state the new employer must re-psych. Colonel Winkvist agreed that it should be a requirement. Paul Dutra added that he would recommend verbiage to the effect that agency shall comply with all current recruit hiring processes.

Chief Mello asked if there were any objectives to adopting the policy with the few additions and concepts he added. He will circulate to the members. Mr. Brown made a motion to adopt the draft policy with the amendments added which would require a physical, drug testing and a Psychological Exam, Colonel Winkvist seconded the motion. With all in favor, 3-0, motion carries. Chief Mello added that this will be closely scrutinized in the coming months and thanked everyone for working so promptly on this.

5. Instructor Applications

Corporal Lagor asked for approval of the following instructor applications, stating that they have all met the requirements and certifications necessary:

Off. Shannon Kane – Charlestown PD- Basic Water Rescue
Sergeant Jason Marquis – Lincoln PD – Firearms
Sergeant Timothy Kenyon – Warwick PD – Firearms
Off. Liam Doyle – North Kingstown PD – Mental Health First Aid
Captain Joseph Salvatore – Johnston PD – Motor Vehicle Code
Off. Charles Psilopoulos – Johnston PD – Motor Vehicle Code

Mr. Brown made a motion to certify all of the above instructors; Colonel Winkvist seconded the motion. With all in favor, 3-0, motion carries.

6. Approval of the Woonsocket PD Special Response Team (SRT)

Corporal Lagor asked for approval of the Woonsocket's SRT team which was assessed and approved by Captain Duffy and the members of RITOA.

Colonel Winqvist made a motion to approve the Woonsocket's SRT team; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. With all in favor, 3-0, motion carries.

7. Approval of the Warwick PD Special Weapons & Tactical Team (SWAT)

Corporal Lagor asked for approval of the Warwick PD SWAR Team which was assessed and approved by Captain Duffy and the members of RITOA.

Colonel Winqvist made a motion to approve the Warwick PD SWAT Team; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. With all in favor, 3-0, motion carries.

8. Request for Approval of Firearms Qualification Courses

- Central Falls PD
- East Providence PD
- North Smithfield PD
- Pawtucket Police Department
- Smithfield Police Department
- Warren PD
- Westerly PD
- West Greenwich PD

Corporal Lagor stated that all meet the state requirements and he is recommending approval of their courses.

Colonel Winqvist made a motion to approve all firearms courses; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. With all in favor, 3-0, motion passes.

9. Update and Discussion on Class 2021-I

Corporal Lagor stated there are currently 39 recruits and the class is moving along well. There have been no issues with COVID. The Use of Force test-out is scheduled for March 19th.

10. Continuing Education Update

Dave Ricciarelli reviewed a few of the trainings, both in person and virtual that have been done and slated to do. He also reviewed the EVOC backing course which addresses issues of low speed crashes.

Chief Mello personally thanked Dave for his 33+ years of service here and applauded him for the evolution and dynamics of the Continuing Education trainings for our Police Officers that he has hosted. These will be beneficial for years to come. Colonel Winqvist echoed his sentiment and wished him well on his retirement.

Chief Mello asked Corporal Lagor about the status of the Field Force Training. Cpl. Lagor stated he was able to pin down some dates as follows:

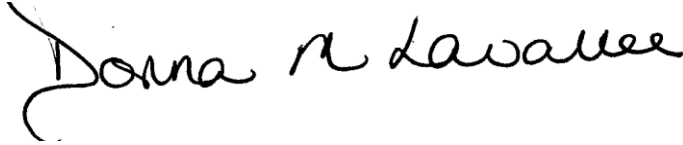
9/2 – Field Force Executive Level (50 seats) – 8 hour training
10/4 – 10/9 – End User (120 seats) 2-3 day training
10/25-10/30 -Field Force Extractions specific to protester devices.

Paul Dutra added to be sure to recognize the issues of jurisdiction. An MOU in place makes a lot of sense.

11. Adjournment

Mr. Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 am; Colonel Winkvist seconded the motion. With all in favor, 3-0, meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna M Lavalley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'D'.

Donna M. Lavalley
Administrative Assistant